

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5555

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJ: NPG - VENUE FOR FALL NPG MEETINGS

REF: A. USNATO 5495 081754Z OCT 75
B. USNATO 5364 011901Z OCT 75

SUMMARY AS A RESULT OF AN FRG REQUEST, WE EXPECT NPG PERMREPS TO MEET ON OCT 15 TO DISCUSS VENUE FOR FALL NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS.

ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE, IF POSSIBLE, PRIOR TO OCT 15. END SUMMARY.

1. AT OCT 10 NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING, FRG REP (HUBER) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES DESIRED A MEETING OF NPG PERMREPS ON OCT 15 TO DISCUSS GERMAN PROPOSAL TO HOLD ALTERNATE MEETINGS OF THE NPG IN DECEMBER IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DPC. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HOPED THAT THIS QUESTION COULD BE DECIDED PRIOR TO THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING, WHICH WOULD ALLOW THIS ITEM TO BE REMOVED FROM THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES FORESAW THAT THERE MIGHT BE A NEED FOR MORE THAN ONE PERMREP DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT,
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AND THEREFORE THEY DID NOT WANT TO DEFER THE FIRST DISCUSSION UNTIL THE OCT 29 MEETING WHEN NPG PERMREPS WILL COVER ITEMS FOR THE HAMBURG MEETING (SEE REF A).

2. FRG REP ADDED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES SUPPORTED A RECENT SUGGESTION BY UK AMBASSADOR PECK (RAISED INFORMALLY AT OCT 1 NAC - REF B) FOR FALL MEETINGS OF NPG TO BE HELD AT NATO HQS, BUT SEPARATE FROM DPC/NAC MEETINGS. ITALIAN REP (AZZARI) SAID HIS AMBASSADOR ALSO SUPPORTED THE UK SUGGESTION. NETHERLANDS REP (VAN VALDEREN) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT FAVOR A CHANGE IN THE NPG MEETING PATTERN. CHAIRMAN (SHEARER) SAID HE HAD BEEN ADVISED INFORMALLY THAT NORWAY PREFERRED THE CURRENT MEETING PATTERN, BUT WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY, AND THAT DENMARK, GREECE, AND TURKEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY.

3. US REP (WODWORTH) ARGUED AGAINST PROPOSED OCTOBER 15 PERM REPS MEETING BECAUSE OF THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE TO GET INSTRUCTIONS. OTHER REPS INDICATED THAT THEIR AMBASSADORS

WOULD BE PREPARED TO MEET ON OCT 15, AND SUPPORTED FRG PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT. WE REALIZE THAT IT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR WASHINGTON TO PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO OCTOBER 15 ON QUESTION OF VENUE FOR FALL MEETINGS OF NPG, BUT BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT OPPOSE FRG PROPOSAL THAT NPG PERMREPS DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT ON OCT 15. WE WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON VENUE IF IT CAN BE PROVIDED BY THAT TIME; IF NOT, WE WILL RESERVE US POSITION. AS FOR VIEWS DESCRIBED ABOVE, SHIFT IN FRG POSITION EVIDENTLY STEMS FROM CONCERN, SHARED BY UK AND OTHERS, THAT LUMPING THE NPG INTO SAME TIME-FRAME AS EUROGROUP, DPC, AND NAC WOULD OVERBURDEN MINISTERS, SYG, CMC, AND STAFFS. GIST OF UK SUGGESTION, NOW SUPPORTED BY FRG AND ITALY, WOULD BE TO HOLD FALL MEETINGS OF NPG AT NATO HQS 2-4 WEEKS PRECEDING THE EUROGROUP/DPC/NAC. THIS WOULD HELP IN REDUCING FINANCIAL BURDEN OF BI-ANNUAL NATIONAL SPONSORSHIP

OF NPG MEETINGS. IT WOULD NOT MEET POSSIBLE DESIRE TO HOLD DOWN TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS. AS FOR POSSIBLE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONSHIP OF NPG MEMBERSHIP QUESTION TO VENUE FOR MINISTERIAL MEETING, SG CHAIRMAN INFORMED US THAT CANADA INTENDED TO PRESS MEMBERSHIP ISSUE IN CONNECTION WITH ORIGINL FRG PROPOSAL. HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT CANADA WOULD DO IN LIGHT OF SHIFT IN FRG POSITION IN FAVOR OF UK SUGGESTION.

5. IN A RELATED MATTER, FRG REP HAS INFORMED US HIS AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED TO DROP THEIR IDEA OF "FREE DISCUSSION" AGENDA ITEMS FOR NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS BECAUSE BOTH CANADA AND NETHERLANDS HAD HINGED ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA ON AGREEMENT TO DO AWAY WITH LIMITED ATTENDANCE AT NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS. FRG REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT WANT TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR RE-OPENING THE MEMBERSHIP ISSUE WITH THE "FREE DISCUSSION" IDEA. END COMMENT. STREATER

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